



6560-50-P

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

[EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279; FRL-10001-31-OAR]

Release of Draft Policy Assessment for the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards

AGENCY: Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

ACTION: Notice of availability.

SUMMARY: On or about October 31, 2019, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will make available the document, *Policy Assessment for the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, External Review Draft* (draft PA). This draft document was prepared as part of the current review of the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for photochemical oxidants including ozone (O₃). The PA, when final, serves to “bridge the gap” between the currently available scientific and technical information and the judgments required of the Administrator in determining whether to retain or revise the existing O₃ NAAQS. The primary and secondary O₃ NAAQS are set to protect the public health and the public welfare from O₃ and other photochemical oxidants in ambient air.

DATES: Comments should be received on or before [INSERT DATE 45 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*].

ADDRESSES: Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov> (our preferred method). Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Email: a-and-r-Docket@epa.gov. Include the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279 in the subject line of the message.

- Fax: (202) 566-9744. Include the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279 in the subject line of the message.
- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office of Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue. NW, Washington, DC 20460.
- Hand Delivery/Courier: EPA Docket Center, WJC West Building, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004. The Docket Center's hours of operations are 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday (except Federal Holidays).

Instructions: All submissions received must include the Docket ID No. for this notice. Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov>, including any personal information provided. For detailed instructions on sending comments, see the

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION section of this document. This document will be available on the EPA's website at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/ozone-o3-air-quality-standards>.

The document will be accessible under "Policy Assessments" from the current review.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Deirdre L. Murphy, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, (Mail Code C504-06), U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Research Triangle Park, NC 27711; telephone number: 919-541-0729, fax number: 919-541-027; or email: murphy.deirdre@epa.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. General Information

Written Comments

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2018-0279, at <https://www.regulations.gov> (our preferred method), or the other methods identified in the

ADDRESSES section. Once submitted, comments cannot be edited or removed from the docket. The EPA may publish any comment received to its public docket. Do not submit electronically any information you consider to be Confidential Business Information (CBI) or other information whose disclosure is restricted by statute. Multimedia submissions (audio, video, etc.) must be accompanied by a written submission. The written submission is considered the official submission and should include discussion of all points you wish to make. The EPA will generally not consider submissions or submission content located outside of the primary submission (i.e., on the web, cloud, or other file sharing system). For additional submission methods, the full EPA public comment policy, information about CBI or multimedia submissions, and general guidance on making effective comments, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>.

II. Information about the Document

Two sections of the Clean Air Act (CAA or the Act) govern the establishment and revision of the NAAQS. Section 108 directs the Administrator to identify and list certain air pollutants and then issue “air quality criteria” for those pollutants. The air quality criteria are to “accurately reflect the latest scientific knowledge useful in indicating the kind and extent of all identifiable effects on public health or welfare which may be expected from the presence of such pollutant in the ambient air. . .” (CAA section 108(a)(2)). Under section 109 of the Act, the EPA is then to establish primary (health-based) and secondary (welfare-based) NAAQS for each pollutant for which the EPA has issued air quality criteria. Section 109(d)(1) of the Act requires periodic review and, if appropriate, revision of existing air quality criteria. Revised air quality criteria are to reflect advances in scientific knowledge on the effects of the pollutant on public health and welfare. Under the same provision, the EPA is also to periodically review and, if

appropriate, revise the NAAQS, based on the revised air quality criteria.

The Act additionally requires appointment of an independent scientific review committee that is to periodically review the existing air quality criteria and NAAQS and to recommend any new standards and revisions of existing criteria and standards as may be appropriate (CAA section 109(d)(2)(A)-(B)). Since the early 1980s, the requirement for an independent scientific review committee has been fulfilled by the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC).

Presently the EPA is reviewing the air quality criteria and NAAQS for photochemical oxidants and O₃.¹ The EPA's overall plan for this review is presented in the Integrated Review Plan for the Ozone NAAQS (IRP).² As described in the IRP, the EPA is preparing an Integrated Science Assessment for (ISA), a draft of which was released in September 2019 for public comment and review by the CASAC (84 FR 50836).³ The PA, when final, serves to “bridge the gap” between the scientific and technical information in the final ISA and any air quality, exposure and risk analyses available in the review, and the judgments required of the Administrator in determining whether to retain or revise the existing ozone NAAQS. The draft PA builds upon information presented in the draft ISA and the draft exposure and risk analyses (presented in an appendix to the draft PA). The draft PA document will be available on or about October 31, 2019, on the EPA's Web site at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/ozone-o3-air-quality-standards>. The EPA is soliciting advice and recommendations from the CASAC by means of a review of this draft document at an upcoming public meeting of the CASAC. Information about this public meeting, including the dates and location, will be published as a separate notice in the

¹ The EPA's call for information for this review was issued on June 26, 2018 (83 FR 29785).

² The IRP (EPA-452/R-19-002, August 2019) is available at <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/ozone-o3-standards-planning-documents-current-review>.

³ The draft ISA is available at: <https://www.epa.gov/naaqs/ozone-o3-standards-integrated-science-assessments-current-review>.

Federal Register. Following the CASAC meeting, the EPA will consider comments received from the CASAC and the public in preparing revisions to these documents.

The draft document briefly described above does not represent and should not be construed to represent any final EPA policy, viewpoint, or determination. The EPA will consider any public comments submitted in response to this notice when revising the document.

Dated: October 28, 2019.

Panagiotis Tsirigotis,

Director,

Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards.

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